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FALL 2008 NEWSLETTER FOR THE PEOPLE OF

Union Grove Lake

Cost-share funds available for conservation practices

Cost-share of at least 75% is available for agricultural landowners and farm operators looking to add certain conservation practices to their farm management systems.

Currently, the Union Grove Lake Watershed Project has funding approved for terraces, grassed waterways, fencing (livestock exclusion), stream corridor protection, streambank restoration, and water/sediment control basins. However, cost-share may also be obtained for numerous

other conservation practices such as contour stripcropping, grade stabilization structures, and ponds.

Certain other practices may qualify for Conservation Reserve Program

(CRP) practices like contour buffer strips, filter strips, wetland restoration, and quail habitat.

For more information, contact Coordinator Melody Bro.



Continuous Conservation Reserve Program offers many possibilities for landowners

The Conservation Reserve Program offers means for rural landowners to not only reduce soil erosion, but to also reduce sediment in lakes and streams, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat.

Practices available through continuous sign-up include these options: grassed waterways, contour buffer strips, filter

strips along water bodies and wetlands, marginal pastureland wildlife/wetland habitat buffers, quail buffers, field windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snow fences, riparian buffers, shallow water areas, wetland restoration, farmable wetlands, and bottomland timber establishment.

There is 90% cost-share for the installation

of most CRP practices.

Rental rates vary according to the soil types involved, with annual rental payments made for the life of each contract, generally 10 to 15 years. Bonus and incentive payments are also available on many practices.

For more information, contact the Farm Service Agency at 641/484-2701.

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If you prefer to receive Union Grove Lake Watershed's quarterly newsletter electronically, please contact Melody Bro at melody.bro@ia.usda.gov.



Union Grove Lake Watershed

Tama Soil & Water Conservation District

102 Hwy 30 West

Toledo, Iowa 52342

Low-interest loans available for cost-shared soil conservation and water quality practices

The Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship (IDALS) offers a variety of programs designed to maintain and improve water quality in Iowa. Two IDALS low-interest loans are offered through participating lenders to Iowa landowners.

The Local Water Protection Program (LWPP) may be used for projects to control the runoff of sediment, nutrients, pesticides and other nonpoint source pollutants from entering Iowa waters. These projects may include composting facilities, contour buffer strips, field borders, field windbreaks, filter strips, riparian forest buffers, terraces, grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways or other practices that are shown to improve or protect water quality.

The Livestock Water Quality Program (LWQ) is available for projects to prevent, minimize or eliminate non-point source pollution of Iowa's rivers and streams from animal feeding operations including lagoons, manure management structures, equipment, vegetative filters and the development of manure management plans. Assistance is limited to existing facilities for animal feeding operations with less than 1,000 total animal unit capacity (AUC).

Prior to receiving a loan, the landowner must receive project approval from the local Soil & Water Conservation District. For more information about either loan program, contact the Tama Soil & Water Conservation District at 641/484-2702, ext. 3.



A filtering system uses a series of hillside terraces to form constructed wetlands. Here, bacteria purify wastewater from a hog operation. Tests indicate the water is cleaner than that required of wastewater treatment plants.

Did you know? About 77% of Union Grove Lake Watershed is planted to corn and soybeans.